2014-15
California Dream Act Application
For High School Counselors & Practitioners
Frequently Asked Questions

AWARDING PROCESS
Q: When will the awarding process begin?
A: The Cal Grant awarding process for the 2014/15 academic year will begin as early as February.

CORRECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION
Q: When a parent is applying for a Parent Pin for the first time, will that screen designate Parent 1 or Father/Mother?
A: For the current 2013/14 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION the parents are designated as Mother /Father. With the release of the 2014-15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, the student will enter who is parent one and parent two if applicable. On the Parent Signature page, the parent will identify what their relationship is to the student. Either parent can login and sign the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, however there is only __one__ parent PIN assigned for each student who completes a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION.

For example, if two students in the same household complete a 14/15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION and the father is designated as Parent One and submits the parent signature for both applications. The father /Parent 1 would have a separate PIN number for each student.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVE (DACA)

Q: Should students who are issued a SSN through DACA include that number on the Dream Act application:

A: Students who have been issued a SSN through DACA should complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. There is a question on the application where the student can enter the SSN number they were issued through DACA. We are asking for this data to use for informational purposes only. If the student accidently provided the school with their DACA social security number and the school submitted the GPA using that social security number, this will allow both the school and the Commission the ability to match the submitted GPA with the student's submitted CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION and not delay in the student being considered for a Cal Grant award.

Q: Should the student use their DACA SSN or the ID number from their parent's income tax when completing the Dream Act Application?

A: There is an area for both numbers to be provided in the application. In the Student Tab area, the student would provide the DACA issued SSN. In the parent section the parent's ITIN would be provided if available.

DREAM ACT APPLICATION IN SPANISH

Q: Will the 2014-15 paper application be available in Spanish?

A: The online 2014-15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION is only available in English. The paper application will be available in Spanish. We highly recommend the student complete the online application so that there is not a delay in processing their application the application for Cal Grant award consideration. The paper application may take longer to process.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Q: The questions that are asked on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION about filing taxes, child support, or income, are they directed at the student or the parent?

A: Both the student and the parent will be asked these questions to complete the financial data section on the application in the applicable areas. For example, the student will answer these questions in the student financial information area if the application and if parent information is required for that applicant, in the parent section of the application this information must also be provided.   A student completing the FAFSA are also asked these same questions. However, if the applicant is deemed an independent student on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, they are required to only answer student related questions.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID- (FAFSA)

Q: Does the FAFSA website re-direct students to the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION website if they do not have a SSN?

A: Unfortunately, the FAFSA does not re-direct students at this time. If the student does not have a SSN they will not be able to complete a FAFSA. FAFSA is a Federal application used in the entire United States, not just California, to determine if a student is eligible for federal student aid (Pell Grant, Federal student loans & Federal Work-Study). The CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION is designed for certain AB540 eligible students in California to receive Cal Grant award consideration as a result of California Legislature Assembly Bill 131.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – CAHSEE

Q : If the student has the CAHSEE exams pending and has only passed the graduation requirements, can they still complete a Dream Act Application?

A: Yes the student can still complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, however the student is still required to meet all high school graduation requirements include passing the CAHSEE in order to be eligible for Cal Grant payment. For the 2014-15 academic year, the student will need to pass the exams by December 31, 2014.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAM (CHSPE)

Q: For question 26 on the application, if a student passed the CHSPE, how would they respond?

A: The student would select "High School Diploma". The student would have received a high school diploma if graduating from high school was met by passing the CHSPE. Just a reminder, students who have passed the CHSPE and do not a GPA to submit must submit their SAT or ACT test scores by the March 2nd deadline to be eligible for Cal Grant award consideration.

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

Q: Will students have the ability to use the IRS data retrieval tool on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION?

A: Unfortunately, not. The IRS is a federal organization. The CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION does not support the IRS Data Retrieval Tool nor does the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION share any data with any federal organizations.

NON-SSN GPA UPLOAD

Q: What happens when we upload GPA's using the Non-SSN upload and the student completed a FAFSA?

A: The GPA submitted using the Non-SSN upload process will be matched with the Financial Application (FAFSA or CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION) submitted by the student.

PARENT QUESTIONS

Q: Does the student need to have an application completed before the parent can apply for a PIN?

A: Yes, before a parent can apply for PIN to sign the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, the student must complete the application and get to the Confirmation page.

Q: If the student's parent(s) do not file taxes, does this make the student ineligible for Cal Grant award consideration?

A: No, it does not. They should still report their earnings and wages on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. However, if the parent(s) made more than the minimum earning threshold, they might be required to file taxes for the student to be eligible for Cal Grant award consideration. .

PARENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Q: If both parents are remarried to another person, will the income information from both sets of parent's financial documents be required?

A: The student would use the name and financial information of the parent that they have lived with more during the 12 months preceding the date the student completed the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION, or during the most recent year that the student actually received support from a parent. A stepparent is treated in the same manner as a biological parent if the stepparent is married to the biological parent whose information will be reported on the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. This is the same requirement for the student that completes a FAFSA.

PARENT PIN

Q: Can the Parent's PIN be retrieved if the parent has forgotten it?

A: Yes, if the parent has forgotten their PIN number the parent is able to retrieve that number by going into the area for the Parent to sign the application. Select "Sign Student Application" and then select "Retrieve Forgotten PIN". The parent would then be able to electronically submit their signature again.

Q: Does the PIN number issued for the parents and students stay the same every year just like the FAFSA?

A: Students that complete the 2014/15 Dream Act Application are not issued a PIN number. The student will electronically sign the application. The Parent Pin number is issued is for that student. The parent would use the same Pin number for each subsequent year the student completes a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION.

Q: Are the parents required to enter the PIN number this year as opposed to check the box to sign the application?

A: Prior to the parent being able to check the box to electronically submit the parent signature, the parent would have selected the option from the drop down menu to have a parent pin number to be issued.

Q: Where do parents request their PIN number?

A: On the application portal screen at the top of the application is a Tab for the Parent Signature titled "Signature". This is where the parent will submit their signature. The parent is able to select from the drop down menu "Apply for PIN number" or "Retrieve Parent PIN"

REPORTS

Q: Do any of the WebGrants reports list the names of the students?

A: The Non-SSN GPA Status report and the GPA Summary Reports will populate with student's Last Name and First name on both reports

Q: How early can we run the reports that will indicate if a GPA and a Financial Application has been submitted?

A: The existing GPA reports are available now. The new Student Support Report is a combination of three (3) separate reports. This report combines the GPA Summary, Financial Application (No GPA), and School of Origin Report. This report is available now, but will be updated when the awarding cycle begin sometime in February. This report is updated weekly and will available every Monday.

SELECTIVE SERVICE
Q: Why are students who complete a Dream Act Application required to register for selective service when they are not eligible for military service?
A: It is a Federal requirement and a requirement to receive a Cal Grant award. Males between 18-25 years of age must register with the United States register for Selective Service.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND NOT A U.S. CITIZEN
Q: Can a student have a Social Security Number and not be a citizen?
A: Yes, a student can obtain a SSN through the Deferred Action process. The number issued is a temporary number and is "For Work Purposes Only". A student issued a SSN through DACA would complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION. Eligible non-citizens or permanent residents with Alien Registration numbers also have social security numbers.

STUDENT NAME
Q: The name that the student provides on the Dream Act Application must match the name on their high school records correct?
A: Yes for awarding purposes, we are asking the students to complete their CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION using the same name that is listed on their school records as their legal name.

STUDENTS WHO ARE NON-CITIZENS
Q: How do I know if one my student's is a non-citizen?
A: There are a few different ways a student can determine if they should complete a FAFSA or CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION: 1) the student can look at their Social Security Card. If the student is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen the card would be issued by the Social Security Administration with no restrictions listed on the card.
2) If the student does not have a social security card or number issued the student would complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION.
3) If the student has a Social Security number issued through DACA, the card will state "For Work Purposes Only". The student would only use this social security number for employment purposes only. This student would complete a CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION.
4) The 2014-15 CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION has a built-in feature called "Access Determination Logic" that based on the certain responses will assist the student in determining the correct financial application.

STUDENT PIN

Q: Can a student generate a PIN number prior to starting an application?

A: Only a parent applies for a PIN number. Once the student has completed the CA DREAM ACT APPLICATION and has been determined to be a "Dependent" student, the next step to successfully complete the application would be the parent applying for a PIN number and submitting the Parent Signature using the PIN number that has been assigned to that parent for that student.

TIMER

Q: Why is there a timer for the application?

A: As with the FAFSA a lot of confidential information is being provided by the student. The timer is a security feature. This is to protect the student and their data in the event the student must either log out of the application prior to completing it or if the student is away and did not exit the application. This feature is to protect the student in the event they are using a shared computer or public computer such as in a library or computer lab.

VISA HOLDERS

Q: How can we help the student determine what type of Visa they hold?

A: The student should check their actual card or the paperwork that was provided at the time they were issued the Visa. If the student needs further assistance to confirm their immigration status, we recommend they contact the immigration office.